



UrbanPromise

Summer Service Learning Trip

Camden, New Jersey



Logistics

Dates	<i>July 13 - 19, 2025</i>
Purpose	<i>To help build toward God's Kingdom in the city of Camden, one child at a time, in partnership with Urban Promise.</i>
Cost	TBD (\$500-\$550)
Deadline to Commit	<i>Sunday, April 20, 2025</i>

Our Partner



UrbanPromise

(<http://urbanpromiseusa.org/>)

Our Context

Camden, NJ is the poorest city in America.

What kind of challenges do Camden's youth face?

Per Capita Income:	Camden--\$9, 815	US Avg--\$21,587
Children Living Below Poverty	Camden—46%	US Avg—16%
Births to unwed mothers	Camden—80%	US Avg—34%

Graduated from High School Camden—51% US Avg—80.4%
Graduate from a 4 Year College Camden—Less than 1%

“About 30 years ago, a small community of God’s people dreamed a dream. We dreamed of creating a ministry to inspire a new generation of Camden’s young people to reach their God-given potential—academically astute, hope-filled, visionaries who would be grounded in Christian faith and desiring to make a difference in Camden and the world.” -Bruce Main

What does Urban Promise do?

Urban promise’s mission is to equip Camden’s children and young adults with the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, spiritual growth and Christian leadership. This is accomplished through:

The **CamdenForward School** (K-8) and the **UrbanPromise Academy** (9-12) use low student/teacher ratios, a family style learning environment, personal accountability, community service and Bible classes to prepare kids for life. 100% of Urban Promise High School students graduate (compared with 51% for the rest of Camden). 75% of the cost for students to attend is subsidized by Urban Promise.

SIX neighborhood based **After School and Summer Programs** around the city that serve 400 children (ages 6-14) daily, providing over 540 hours of arts and crafts, Bible study, recreation, life skills workshops, academic enrichment classes, off campus enrichment experiences, mentoring and more each year!

Urban Trekkers (outdoor and exploratory program), **Urban Boatworks** (in partnership with the Camden Shipyard and Maritime Museum), **UrbanChef Program**, **Fine Arts Program** and **Camden Step Team** provide exciting, well-rounded opportunities to students to leave Camden and develop their scientific, athletic, engineering, artistic and kinetic skills.

Serving the city of Camden (roughly 7,200 **Volunteer Hours** per year)

A **StreetLeader Program** which provides training, mentoring, paying jobs and leadership opportunities for nearly 100 teens every year. Streetleader Alumni have graduated from or attend Eastern, Cornell, Princeton, Bennett, Rutgers, Rowan, Virginia, Kean & others.

In addition: Over the past 30 years, over 1,600 college-age **interns** have devoted a summer or a year of service in the community of Camden. (Intern alumni have initiated urban ministries in Vancouver, Malawi, Buffalo, Aberdeen and a host of other cities around the world.)

Urban Promise attracts over 1000 **volunteers** every year to serve, love and learn.

Today, graduates of UrbanPromise are teaching in Camden Public Schools, working at the

Department of Youth and Family Services as social workers, attending seminars, studying for Master's degrees, starting careers in the work-force, and planting urban youth ministries.

“Young people are fulfilling their dreams. Young people are fulfilling God’s dreams for their lives.” – Bruce Main

What will we be doing in Camden?

Early Morning: Breakfast & Devotions with an Urban Promise Leader

Late Morning: Summer Camp Assignments (*Bible Studies, Arts & Crafts, Music, Sports & Activities, Field Trips & more*)

Afternoon: Lunch & Campus and Community Work Projects (*e.g.: construction and renovation, maintenance, landscaping, program support, neighborhood clean-up projects, etc.*)

Evening: Dinner & Evening Activities designed to stretch you culturally, interpersonally and spiritually (*e.g.: Movie Night with discussion, Round-table discussion with Camden teenagers and young adults, Cultural, Urban and Historical tours through Metro-Camden/Philly, etc.*)

Where will we stay?

In a dormitory at Rutgers University. Rutgers is located near the Camden Waterfront, in a safe and secure part of the city.

Eligibility & Expectations

- You must be a current eighth grader, high school student or an adult of any age.
- We expect team members to be:
 - Flexible, teachable, responsible, cheerful and willing to follow directions
 - Willing to learn from others, and put others first
 - Willing to leave your comfort zone, to be stretched, and to grow
 - Willing to be in community with others who are different
- Financially:
 - You must earn at least \$200 of the total trip cost, on your own, through work that is fairly paid for. You can raise over \$200, but not less. Support letters do not count toward this \$200.
- Preparation
 - Attend any team meetings (typically brief, and Sunday after church)
 - Mission Team Commissioning: During Sunday Worship, July 13, 10am, College Church
 - *Optional: Read [Why Jesus Crossed the Road](#) by Bruce Main*

Trip Costs (Detailed)

- The cost of the trip is \$500 and must be paid in full by July 13, 2025.

- A \$50 non-refundable deposit must be paid when you sign up.
- Each team member has the option of applying for financial support covering 25% of the total trip cost (\$125) through the Missions Committee of College Church. This is the individual's responsibility and does not count toward the \$200 that you must raise on your own. Email missions@thecollegechurch.org for an application.

Questions?

Contact Bill@thecollegechurch.org or thomasodonnell03@yahoo.com.